



Vol. 23, #1

Thursday • January 7, 1999

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## Amendment Rejected 387 - 335



Menominee Tribal members voted on a proposed amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin in an election that was held on Wednesday, January 6, 1999. The polls were open from 8 AM-8 PM in the boardroom of the Tribal Offices in Keshena. Above, tribal member Deb Boelter casts her vote while her daughter Kaitlyn looks on. The election was necessary for the Tribe to make plans for an off-reservation gaming project in Kenosha. An approved amendment would have allowed tribal leaders to continue with the \$200 million project. The BIA conducted the election in accordance with Part 81 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

MNN photo/Yvonne M. Kaquish-Aragon

## Menominee celebrate 25 years of restoration

by Kamay Dickenson  
MNN Reporter



Ada E. Deer

Forty-four years ago (June 17, 1954) the Menominee tribe experienced the harsh act of termination.

During the period of termination, the Menominee endured many hardships.

The tribal rolls were closed and the unemployment level was high. Menominee land was being sold and the battle was on to preserve the name the "Menominee Indian Tribe".

Many actions were taken by the Menominee to once again be recognized as a tribe. The Menominee were fortunate to have many dedicated advocates, Menominee as well as non-Menominee, who didn't sit back and expect this new way of life.

Nineteen years after termination, in 1973, the Menominee Tribe proudly regained their status of a federally recognized tribe.

On December 19, 1998, Menominee people gathered at the Menominee Indian Jr/Sr High School to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Menominee Indian Tribe.

Many prestigious individuals attended the celebration which featured a variety of speakers and performances by talented youth from the community.

Among the many guests were Tom and wife Sharon Mets, founders of HONOR (a national human rights group focused on American Indian issues), John McGeshick, Chairman of LacVieux Desert, Michael Alan, Executive Director of GLITC, Dr. Dave Beck, NAES College, Menominee Historian, and Dr. David Wrona, Professor of History, Stevens Point who did extensive research

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**please see RESTORATION**

## Bone Marrow Donor Drive to be set up at Menominee Clinic

There has been a positive response with the story written by Menominee Nation News Reporter Kamay Dickenson on Teri Stenglein in her search for a bone marrow match.

We have an update for those individuals who would like to see if they may be able to help Ms. Stenglein. Dave Hoffman, Medical Technologist at the Menominee Tribal Clinic has been working to set-up a site at the clinic to test individuals free of charge.

Through Mr. Hoffman's efforts, the Community Blood Center, a regional facility based in Appleton is currently working on plans to be on site at the Menominee Tribal Clinic in the near future to conduct the necessary

tests for potential bone marrow donors. It is uncertain at this time when this will take place. However, Beth Block, Technical Specialist at the Community Blood Center, indicated that collection may be conducted in February at the earliest due to scheduling. At this point nothing is finalized.

Mr. Hoffman can be reached at 1-715-799-5468.

For individuals who reside outside of our area, additional information may be obtained by calling the National Bone Marrow Donor Program at 1/800-627-7692 to find out where the nearest donor center is to accommodate you.

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## RESTORATION:

on the Menominee people. Also our own Menominee Legislative members including James Wayka, Robert Deer and Lisa Waukau. The celebration kicked off with an honor song by tribal members Myron Pyawasit and Jerome Sanapaw while the posting of colors was done by the Menominee Veterans. Legislator Margaret Rose Snow, Master of Ceremonies, introduced Menominee Elder Steve Askenette who said a Menominee prayer.

"Today we must ask 'How was such a thing accomplished?'" said Legislator Lisa Waukau of Restoration. "Today we answer, through the efforts of all Menominee who dare to question the wisdom of the United States who dared to say we were wrong. . . . We must also remember that out of this darkness the Menominees were reborn with a new sense of purpose. A new resolve came forth to never again suffer indignity and poverty at the hands of the United States government."

Following Waukau spoke a women who, as Snow said, needs no introduction - honorary lifetime member of the Menominee Tribal Legislature and Menominee tribal member Ada E. Deer. Deer spoke of the importance of education.

Speaking to the younger generation she stated, "I want all of you young people to study hard and to do your best, because if I hadn't been able to do that I wouldn't have had the good education and the knowledge to go to Washington and work for the restoration of our tribe."

"The rights of native peoples hang by a thread in Washington," Deer went on to say. "There are many efforts to attack the tribes, to cut the budgets and to do away with the rights of our people. We are going to need knowledgeable, competent, educated Indian people to carry this out. Menominees are an example not only to other tribes, but to everybody. We took an important piece of legislation-The Menominee Restoration-and got it through the congress. If a small tribe can achieve this historic action, anybody in this country can achieve their goals and objectives with the legislative and political process."

She pointed out that the Menominee people have been in this area for over ten-thousand years. Deer is the former Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

The celebration concluded with performances by Menominee youth. Katrina Marie Wychesit sang Angel, by Sara McLachan, and Amazing Grace. Katrina Marie is a student at the Menominee High School who hopes to attend the University of Performing Arts, New York, after high school. Also performing were students from the Menominee Tribal School and Lori LaTender's seventh grade class, Menominee Indian Jr/Sr High School. A student art exhibit on display was facilitated by Wildlife Artist Jay Jocham.